

Unofficial

PROPOSED ARGUMENTS/AMENDMENTS
Application No.: 10/525,240

Attorney Docket No.: Q86264

Dear Examiner Crowell,

Please find attached proposed arguments and claim amendments for you review in advance of our scheduled interview with you today, Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 3:00 PM regarding Application No.: 10/525,240.

Very truly yours,

Howard L. Bernstein and Thomas M. Hunter

PROPOSED ARGUMENTS

Regarding the rejection of Claim 6, Nishijima discloses that the upper permanent magnet 21 is adjusted with respect to an upper electrode 16, and likewise, the location of the lower permanent magnet 31 is adjusted relative to a lower electrode 17. See, paragraphs [0015], [0016], [0055] and [0063]. In other words, Nishijima describes the gap adjustment between the upper and lower permanent magnets 21, 31 and the corresponding electrodes 16, 17.

Nishijima does not disclose or suggest an adjustment of a gap between the upper magnetic field generating mechanism and the lower magnetic field generating mechanism.

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENT

6. (currently amended): A magnetic field generator for magnetron plasma, comprising a plurality of magnetic segments provided on the outer side of a process chamber for performing a predetermined process on a substrate placed in said chamber for generating a multi-pole magnetic field along the circumference of said substrate, ~~characterized in that the arrangement is such that a strength of said multi-pole magnetic field in said process chamber can be controlled, and in that said magnetic field generator comprises an upper magnetic field generating mechanism and a lower magnetic field generating mechanism and in that said upper and lower magnetic field generating mechanisms are arranged to move vertically relative to each other~~ characterized in that said magnetic field generator comprises an upper magnetic field generating mechanism and a lower magnetic field generating mechanism so as to control a strength of said multi-pole magnetic field in said process chamber by bringing said upper and

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lower magnetic field generating mechanisms close to each other or moving away said upper and

lower magnetic field generating mechanisms from each other.

